

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01737 012329Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 /071 W

-----020115Z 029038 /64

R 012232Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3837

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 1737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN BUDGET - CPC DISCUSSION OF OPI

1. SUMMARY. CPC WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED FROM SECRETARIAT ON OPI, SEEMED TO BE IN AGREEMENT THAT GA BUDGETARY GUIDELINES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, OPPOSED CREATING NEW OVERVIEW BODY FOR OPI AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN PROGRAM ELEMENTS. END SUMMARY

2. LENGTHY DISCUSSION BY CPC OF UN PROGRAM OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) CONCLUDED JUNE 1 WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP TO RESOLVE PENDING QUESTIONS, CONSISTING OF BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, KENYA, PAKISTAN, UK AND USSR.

3. DISCUSSION STAYED AWAY FROM BUDGETARY MATTERS, EXCEPT AS PER PARA 5 BELOW. FEELING OF COMMITTEE WAS THAT OPI SHOULD BE KEPT AT THE GROWTH RATES RECOMMENDED BY THE GA.

4. CPC MEMBERS WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ABOUT INADEQUACY OF DATA PRESENTED BY SECRETARIAT. INDIA CALLED IT EXTRAORDINARILY WEAK AND PAKISTAN CONGRATULATED SECRETARIAT FOR NOT ATTEMPTING TO HIDE INADEQUACY OF EVALUATION. CHAIRMAN HANSEN CHARACTERIZED DATA AS DISAPPOINTING AND DISCONCERTING, GIVEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR MONITORING. ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01737 012329Z

WERE VERY VAGUE, TARGETS WERE NOT WELL DEFINED, AND NO DISTINCTION WAS MADE BETWEEN ITEMS THAT ARE FREE AND THOSE THAT ARE FOR SALE. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO MANDATE TO SECRETARIAT TO IDENTIFY OBSOLETE PROGRAMS. IN SUMMATION, CHAIRMAN DESCRIBED OPI DATA AS NOT SATISFACTORY AND GIVING LITTLE CLUE ON BASIS OF SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS AS TO PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

5. CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION (CESI) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968 WITH VOLUNTARY FUNDS FROM SCANDINAVIA AND JAPAN. 1978-79 BUDGET PROPOSED TO SWITCH FIVE POSITIONS INTO REGULAR BUDGET FOR TOTAL OF 18. BELGIUM REPEATEDLY OBJECTED TO TRANSFERS FROM EXTRABUDGETARY SOURCES BUT SUGGESTED CESI COULD BE ACCEPTED WITHIN GUIDELINES OF GA BY ACCOMPLISHING SAVINGS ELSEWHERE. USSR DECLARED THAT TRANSFER OF PROGRAMS FUNDED BILATERALLY INTO MULTILATERAL FUNDING WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. PAKISTAN OBJECTED TO TRANSFERS IN PRINCIPLE. KENYA AND UK INDICATED THAT CESI SHOULD NOT BE CONDITIONAL ON FINDING MONEY ELSEWHERE. DENMARK (KIELDGAARD) STRONGLY SUPPORTED REGULAR BUDGET FOR CESI, AS WELL AS NIEO AND WAS CRITICAL OF FIFTH COMMITTEE'S FISCAL ORTHODOXY. FINAL REPORT OF CPC WILL PROBABLY ALLOW FOR CESI ALONG LINES OF BELGIAN PROPOSAL.

6. CPC MEMBERS CLEARLY OPPOSED TO CREATING NEW BODY TO SUPERVISE AND REVIEW OPI. FINAL RECOMMENDATION WILL PROBABLY SUGGEST STRENGTHENING CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION.

7. SEVERAL QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT RADIO AND VISUAL SERVICES PROGRAMS. THE DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES DEVOTED TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET MAY NOT REPRESENT PROPER PRIORITIES. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT RADIO PROGRAMS FOR EUROPE MIGHT BE REDUCED AND THAT SHORTWAVE RADIO BE DEEMPHASIZED.

8. COMMITTEE WAS CLEARLY DISSATISFIED WITH PUBLICATION SCHEDULE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 01737 012329Z

OF YEARBOOK. INDIA INDICATED IT HAD VOTED FOR ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR YEARBOOK ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS TO BE USED FOR YEARBOOK ONLY AND WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT SCHEDULE MIGHT SLIP FURTHER AND MORE FUNDS BE REQUESTED. USSR POINTED OUT THAT MONEY WAS APPROPRIATED ANNUALLY FOR YEAR BOOK AND SLIPPAGE MEANT UN HAD USED MONEY FOR SOMETHING ELSE. UTILITY OF MONTHLY CHRONICLE WAS QUESTIONED. SUBSEQUENTLY, LAVAU, IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTIONS, INDICATED THAT DIRECT PRODUCTION COSTS OF MONTHLY CHRONICLE WERE \$611,000 IN 1974-75 AND ANNUAL SALES ARE ABOUT \$104,000. DEVELOPMENT FORUM (DF) WAS COMMENDED. US ASKED FOR DETAILS ABOUT INFORMATION IN 1978-79 BUDGET PERTAINING TO \$2 MILLION EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR DF AND STATEMENT THAT DF WOULD BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING JANUARY 1, 1978. MAZAIRAC, DIRECTOR OF CESI, REPORTED THAT OPI IS TRYING TO GET SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR DF AND PERSUADE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO BEAR COSTS OF WITHIN-COUNTRY DISTRIBUTION. MAZAIRAC SAID THAT, IF THAT DID NOT WORK, DF QUOTE WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1, 1978 AND 13 PEOPLE WILL BE OUT OF JOBS UNQTE. SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS INDICATED

THAT THEY FOUND LANGUAGE IN DOCUMENT INCONSISTENT WITH VERBAL
EXPLANATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770195-1085
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706100/aaaadjxi.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31cf0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1996355
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN BUDGET - CPC DISCUSSION OF OPI
TAGS: AORG, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31cf0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009